

Aberystwyth University

The resettlement of young people sent to custody from North Wales

Hampson, Kathryn

Publication date:
2016

Citation for published version (APA):

Hampson, K. (2016). *The resettlement of young people sent to custody from North Wales*. Paper presented at Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice, Newtown, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the Aberystwyth Research Portal (the Institutional Repository) are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the Aberystwyth Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the Aberystwyth Research Portal

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

tel: +44 1970 62 2400
email: is@aber.ac.uk

The resettlement of young people sent to custody from North Wales

Dr Kathy Hampson

kathyhampson@llamau.org.uk



Background

- Resettlement Broker Project
- Several ongoing research activities

Findings chime with other related projects and research areas:

- ✓ Beyond Youth Custody
- ✓ Desistance in youth justice



‘From the mouths of dragons – how does the resettlement of young people from North Wales measure up...in their own words?’

- Interviews with young people sent to DTO custody from North Wales (to England)
 1. Return to the community
 2. End of licence
 - Purpose - to understand their custody and resettlement experience, against literature on:
 - Effective resettlement
 - Current desistance thinking
- ...all within the Welsh context



Interview participants

- Whole population of young people from North wales leaving custody (DTOs) April to Sept 2014
- Eight young people (5 - missing data)
- Focus group of five young people in Hindley YOI (Oct 2013)
- Four interviews with earlier custody leavers during their licence (worker selected)



The interviewees (excluding Hindley group)

- Mean age 16 (range 13-18)
- 9 (n11) in custody for Breach of Statutory Order
- 7 serving ≤ 6 months
- Only 1 female
- Mean average 9 previous convictions
- Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ LAC
- Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ first language Welsh
- 3 NEET at sentence, increasing to 8 on release

- Only 2 received Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) opportunities
- Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ committed breachable actions, but were not breached
- 3 returned to court for breach, 2 recalled
- Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ had no further offending during licence, but only 4 offence free after 12 months (roughly commensurate with UK figures)
- Only 5 with further identified support after licence (inc social worker, where applicable)



Findings

- Young people from more westerly counties felt more impact from being in English custody (language, culture, distance)
- Significant emotional difficulties experienced on leaving custody (not addressed in any provision/intervention, including pre-release courses, where available), including loss of custody relationships
- Young people were being denied ROTL because of their sentence length (however, some young people found the thought of having to return too difficult to accept ROTL)
- Young people were being denied some programmes because of their sentence length



- Majority of young people were released on a Friday, with skeleton staff to support over first (crucial) weekend
- Custody seriously fractured ETE provision
- High intensity post-release licences (ISS) serve to remind young people of 'offender' status, and add to breach
- Planning for post-licence ('after justice') utilising non-criminal agencies helps enable the young person's new non-offending personal narrative, while focusing their attention on post-licence life
- Resettlement planning and intervention did not consider young people's personal goals



Debates to which this adds

- Resettlement good practice – utilisation of a range of agencies (Partnership approach – aim of current project)
- Importance of ROTL being made more generally available (currently under YJB review)
- Use of English custody for Welsh young people – devolution of youth justice enabling the establishment of small local units?
- Roll-out of AssetPlus – embedding of desistance approach?



If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got (Henry Ford)

Current opportunities for change:

- Opportunity for the Ministry of Justice to take on board a growing range of literature covering good resettlement and desistance working
- Youth Justice Review
- YJB review of ROTL
- Devolution of youth justice
- Roll-out of Asset-Plus



Article address:

<http://yjj.sagepub.com/content/early/2016/01/28/1473225415625374.full.pdf+html>

Dr Kathy Hampson

Email: kathyhampson@llamau.org.uk

